

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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O R 271347Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6425
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN
EC COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2806

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC
USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY
CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

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SUBJ: US-EC PRESIDENCY DIALOGUE: POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING,
COPENHAGEN, APRIL 25-26, 1978: AFRICA

REF : COPENHAGEN 1096

1. DANISH EC PRESIDENCY CHIEF, JORGEN BOJER, BRIEFED US LAST
NIGHT ON POLITICAL DIRECTORS' EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF RELATIONS
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BETWEEN THE NINE AND SOUTH AFRICA. THIS DISCUSSION WAS IN DIRECT
PREPARATION FOR THE INFORMAL FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING ON THE
DANISH ISLAND OF FYN ON MAY 20. POLITICAL DIRECTORS ADDRESSED,
AND APPROVED, A REPORT BY THE EC AFRICAN WORKING GROUP ON QUES-
TIONS REQUIRING MINISTERIAL ATTENTION AND DECISION.
2. FIRST, THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS CONSIDERED THE INVENTORY OF
MEASURES THEORETICALLY AVAILABLE TO THE NINE TO INCREASE PRES-

SURE ON SOUTH AFRICA. MOST OF THEM WERE ECONOMIC MEASURES:

- REQUIRE CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN FOR SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORTS;
- CURTAILMENT BY THE NINE OF SOUTH AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS;
- REQUIRE IMPORT LICENSES FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORTS;
- END OF ASSISTANCE BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NINE (EXPORT CREDITS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT, ETC.) VIS-A-VIS ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN SOUTH AFRICA;
- MANDATORY ECONOMIC SANCTIONS.

3. BOJER NOTED THAT OBVIOUSLY THERE WERE DRAWBACKS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE MEASURES. FOR INSTANCE, BOJER THOUGHT THAT ACTION BY THE NINE TO LIMIT SOUTH AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS AND THE REQUIREMENT OF IMPORT LICENSES WAS CONTRARY TO GATT.

4. ON THE NON-ECONOMIC SIDE, BOJER REPEATED THE FAMILIAR AREAS OF RESTRICTION ON CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND SPORTING RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND THE IMPOSITION BY THE NINE OF VISA REQUIREMENTS.

5. MINISTERS WILL ALSO DISCUSS AND HOPEFULLY RESOLVE AT THEIR MAY MEETING WHAT BOJER DESCRIBED AS "FUNDAMENTAL POLICY QUESTIONS":

- DO ONGOING EFFORTS TO SECURE SOUTH AFRICAN COOPERATION ON NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA MEAN THAT THE NINE SHOULD "LAY OFF" SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE TIME BEING?
 - THE NEED FOR THE NINE TO MAINTAIN CREDIBILITY ON SOUTH AFRICA WITH EC DOMESTIC PUBLIC OPINION, WITH THE BLACK AFRICANS AND WITH THE WORLD AT LARGE.
 - WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF THE CONTRAST BETWEEN STRONG DECLARATIONS OF THE NINE AGAINST APARTHEID AND THE MODESTY OF THE COMMUNITY'S
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ACTIONS?

- WHAT ABOUT THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES ON THE NINE OF THE VARIOUS MEASURES THEY MAY TAKE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA?
- WHAT ABOUT THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES ON THE NINE OF THE VARIOUS MEASURES THEY MAY TAKE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA?
- WHAT SHOULD BE THE BALANCE BETWEEN PRESSURES, SUCH AS SANCTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA, AND "FRIENDLY PERSUASION"?

BOJER OBSERVED THAT THE NINE ARE AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT TOO MUCH PRESSURE WOULD FORTIFY THE LAAGER MENTALITY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES.

6. THE DANES INFORMED THE OTHER EIGHT OF THE PROGRESS TOWARD CONVENING A MEETING IN COPENHAGEN TO DISCUSS A "CODE OF CONDUCT" VIS-A-VIS SOUTH AFRICA (REFTEL). THE MEETING WOULD INCLUDE ALL MEMBERS OF THE OECD EXCEPT THE OTHER EC EIGHT. JUNE 6 LOOKS LIKE THE DATE AND BOJER SAID THAT THE DANES HAD RECEIVED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FOR SUCH A MEETING FROM ALL THOSE INVITED EXCEPT ONE. HE COULD NOT REMEMBER WHICH ONE.

7. ON THE HORN, THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS RECOMMENDED THAT GOVERNMENTS REACT FAVORABLY TO THE APPEAL BY THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER OF REFUGEES (FORMER DANISH PRIME MINISTER POUL HARTLING):

- FOR US DOLLARS 12.15 MILLION IN ORDER TO FINANCE A NINE-MONTH PROGRAM IN SOMALIA;

- FOR US DOLLARS 5.075 MILLION FOR A SIX-TO NINE-MONTH PROGRAM
IN ETHIOPIA;

- FOR DOLLARS 2.2 MILLION FOR A PROGRAM IN DJIBOUTI.

8. BOJER COMMENTED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO THE NINE THAT ITS
SUPPORT FOR THE VARIOUS REFUGEE PROGRAMS BE BALANCED AMONG THE
VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND GROUPS IN THE HORN.

9. FINALLY, BOJER NOTED THAT THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE BRIEFLY
DISCUSSED LATE DEVELOPMENTS IN NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA. THEY AGREE
THAT SWAPO HAD BEEN CAUGHT OFF BALANCE BY THE "UNEXPECTED" MOVE
BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN ACCEPTING THE WESTERN FIVE'S
PROPOSALS ON SOUTH AFRICA. THE EIGHT HAD RECEIVED THEIR PRINCIPAL
BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIA "A FEW DAYS AGO" IN
LONDON. THEY VIEWED THE CHANCES OF PROGRESS IN THAT COUNTRY
WITH PESSIMISM BUT AGREED TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE ANGLO-
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